

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-9 (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended): ~~The gambrel of Claim 1, further comprising~~ A gambrel comprising:
a central bar slidably attached to an upper cross member, said upper cross member
extending outwardly from said central bar;
a lower cross member attached to a second end of said central bar, said lower cross
member extending outwardly from said central bar;
a prong arm pivot attached to said upper cross member;
a prong arm pivotally attached to said prong arm pivot, and said prong arm slidably
attached to said lower cross member; and
a support hook attached to a first end of said central bar.
11. (Currently Amended): The gambrel of Claim 10, further comprising a prong attached to an end of said prong arm, opposite of said prong arm pivot.
12. (Original): The gambrel of Claim 11, wherein said prong is attached to said prong arm at an angle of between 20 degrees and 85 degrees, relative to said prong arm.
13. (Original): The gambrel of Claim 12, wherein said prong has a tapered end opposite said prong arm.

Claims 14-16 (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended): ~~The gambrel of Claim 1, wherein:~~ A gambrel comprising:
a central bar slidably attached to an upper cross member, said upper cross member
extending outwardly from said central bar;

a lower cross member attached to a second end of said central bar, said lower cross member extending outwardly from said central bar;

a prong arm pivot attached to said upper cross member;

a prong arm pivotally attached to said prong arm pivot, and said prong arm slidably attached to said lower cross member;

wherein said upper cross member is further comprised of an upper cross member first plate and an upper cross member second plate;

said upper cross member first plate attached to an end of said prong arm pivot and said upper cross member second plate attached to the opposite end of said prong arm pivot;

~~a upper cross~~ an upper cross member cylinder attached to said upper cross member first plate and to said upper cross member second plate, wherein said upper cross member cylinder is attached between and near the center of said upper cross member first plate and said upper cross member second plate; and

said upper cross member cylinder is generally tubular in shape, and said upper cross member cylinder's inner diameter is sized to slidably receive said central bar.

18. (Original): The gambrel of Claim 17, wherein:

said lower cross member is further comprised of a lower cross member collar attached to a second end of said lower cross member; and

said prong arm slidably attached to said lower cross member collar.

19. (Original): The gambrel of Claim 18, further comprising a support hook attached to a first end of said central bar.

20. (Original): The gambrel of Claim 18, further comprising a prong attached to an end of said prong arm, opposite of said prong arm pivot.
21. (Original): The gambrel of Claim 20, wherein said prong is attached to said prong arm at an angle of between 20 degrees and 85 degrees, relative to said prong arm.
22. (Original): The gambrel of Claim 21, wherein said prong has a tapered end opposite said prong arm.
23. (Original): The gambrel of Claim 19, further comprising a prong attached to an end of said prong arm, opposite of said prong arm pivot.
24. (Original): The gambrel of Claim 23, wherein said prong is attached to said prong arm at an angle of between 20 degrees and 85 degrees, relative to said prong arm.
25. (Original): The gambrel of Claim 24, wherein said prong has a tapered end opposite said prong arm.
26. (Original): The gambrel of Claim 17, further comprising a support hook attached to a first end of said central bar.
27. (Original): The gambrel of Claim 17, further comprising a prong attached to an end of said prong arm, opposite of said prong arm pivot.
28. (Original): The gambrel of Claim 27, wherein said prong is attached to said prong arm at an angle of between 20 degrees and 85 degrees, relative to said prong arm.
29. (Original): The gambrel of Claim 28, wherein said prong has a tapered end opposite said prong arm.
30. (Original): The gambrel of Claim 26, further comprising a prong attached to an end of said prong arm, opposite of said prong arm pivot.

31. (Original): The gambrel of Claim 30, wherein said prong is attached to said prong arm at an angle of between 20 degrees and 85 degrees, relative to said prong arm.
32. (Original): The gambrel of Claim 31, wherein said prong has a tapered end opposite said prong arm.
33. (New): A gambrel comprising:
- a central bar having a first end and a second end;
 - an upper cross member slidably attached to said central bar, said upper cross member having a first end and a second end, wherein said central bar is slidably attached between and generally equidistant from said upper cross member first end and said upper cross member second end, said upper cross member extends outwardly from said central bar, and said upper cross member slides on said central bar between said central bar first end and said central bar second end;
 - said central bar second end attached to a lower cross member, said lower cross member having a first end and a second end, wherein said central bar is attached between and generally equidistant from said lower cross member first end and said lower cross member second end, and said lower cross member extends outwardly at generally right angles from said central bar;
 - a first prong arm pivot attached near said upper cross member first end;
 - a second prong arm pivot attached near said upper cross member second end;
 - a first prong arm pivotally attached to said first prong arm pivot, and said first prong arm slidably attached to said lower cross member first end;
 - a second prong arm pivotally attached to said second prong arm pivot, and said second prong arm slidably attached to said lower cross member second end; and

a support hook attached to said first end of said central bar, wherein said support hook is not closed.

34. (New): The gambrel of Claim 33, wherein said upper cross member slides on said central bar toward said central bar second end until said upper cross member comes in contact with said lower cross member.

35. (New): The gambrel of Claim 33 further comprising:

a first lower cross member collar attached to said lower cross member first end, wherein said first prong arm is slidably attached to said lower cross member first end through said first lower cross member collar; and

a second lower cross member collar attached to said lower cross member second end, wherein said second prong arm is slidably attached to said lower cross member second end through said second lower cross member collar.

36. (New): The gambrel of Claim 35 further comprising:

said first lower cross member collar having a first notch opposite said lower cross member first end, wherein said first notch allows said first prong arm to more easily extend outwardly as said first prong arm slides through said first lower cross member collar; and

said second lower cross member collar having a second notch opposite said lower cross member second end, wherein said second notch allows said second prong arm to more easily extend outwardly as said second prong arm slides through said second lower cross member collar.

37. (New): The gambrel of Claim 33, wherein said first prong arm is essentially straight and said second prong arm is essentially straight.

38. (New): The gambrel of Claim 37, further comprising:
a first prong attached to said first prong arm at an end of said first prong arm opposite of said first prong arm pivot; and
a second prong attached to said second prong arm at an end of said second prong arm opposite of said second prong arm pivot.
39. (New): The gambrel of Claim 33, wherein said first prong is essentially straight, and said second prong is essentially straight.
40. (New): The gambrel of Claim 39, wherein said first prong is attached to said first prong arm at an angle of between 20 degrees and 85 degrees, relative to said first prong arm, and said second prong is attached to said second prong arm at an angle of between 20 degrees and 85 degrees, relative to said second prong arm.
41. (New): The gambrel of Claim 39, wherein said first and second prongs are attached to said first and second prongs at an angle relative to said first and second prongs, and said upper cross member slides along said central bar causing said first and second prong arms to extend sufficiently, such that when a carcass is hung on only one of either said first prong arm or said second prong arm that the carcass will not fall off said first or second prong arm.
42. (New): The gambrel of Claim 33, wherein said upper cross member further comprises:
an upper cross member first plate slidably attached to one side of said central bar, said upper cross member first plate having a first end and a second end, wherein said central bar is slidably attached between and generally equidistant from said upper cross member first plate first end and said upper cross member first plate second end;

an upper cross member second plate slidably attached to a side of said central bar opposite said upper cross member first plate, said upper cross member second plate having a first end and a second end, wherein said central bar is slidably attached between and generally equidistant from said upper cross member second plate first end and said upper cross member second plate second end;

wherein said first prong arm pivot is disposed between said upper cross member first plate and said upper cross member second plate; and

wherein said second prong arm pivot is disposed between said upper cross member first plate and said upper cross member second plate.